

WASHAKIE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

MAMMOTH



NEWS



Autumn 2022

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Don't forget the
Museum for
holiday gifts!

GIFT SHOP SALE
Black Friday - Dec. 23

- 15% off purchases over \$50
- Buy one, get one half off:
stuffed animals & kid's books
- Up to 30% off selected items
- Clearance up to 75% off

MEMBERSHIPS
also make a great gift!
Starting at \$40

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Saturday, October 29: STEAM Saturday: Hocus Pocus Potions
- Friday, November 4: 11th Annual Quick Draw
- Thursday, November 17: Speaker Series: Mark Hamilton, history of the region's oil industry
- Friday, November 25: Museum open, Gift Shop Black Friday sale
- Saturday, December 10: Soup and Cookie Fair



WASHAKIE MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTER

Letter from the Director

Bringing back old favorites and launching new ones



Marian Bender,
Executive Director

When I started this position a year ago, I asked many Worlanders what they wanted to see from their Museum. A few folks vociferously stated, “Bring back the Soup & Cookie Fair!” As the staff and I looked over old files and photos, we agreed that it would be a fun community-building event that could leverage the assets of the museum to bring good food, good music, and holiday cheer to the town. But we’ll need your help! We’re looking for volunteer cookie bakers, soup makers, and servers to make this a success. It’s a great way to share your time and talent with the community and get to know the museum staff.

And if cooking and baking are not your skills, how about sharing your performance talents with the whole Big Horn Basin? We’re looking for folks to participate in the first “Big Horn Basin Talent Show,” with auditions in November and performances in March. Show us how you can “wow” an audience in 6 minutes or less, and you could be part of two public performances and a chance to win \$500! Details are on page 9 and on the museum website, or give Chloe or me a call if you’re not sure and need some encouragement.

Another tried-and-true event that’s coming up is the 11th Annual Mammoth Quick Draw fundraiser, on Friday, November 4. With tremendous community support and 29 artists creating exquisite pieces in just one hour, it is shaping up to be another great event, and I can’t wait to see you there.

Thanks to the vision and enterprise of my predecessors here at the museum, and the generosity of WYDOT, Washakie County, and the Newell B. Sargent Foundation, we’re welcoming a giant new artifact to the museum grounds this winter. Read all about it in the Curator’s Corner on page 4.

As always, the staff and I welcome your ideas for ways that the Washakie Museum can benefit our community. We’re putting together our work plans for 2023, and would love to hear your thoughts!

Worland’s War Babies Grow Up: Oral Histories from the Class of 1960

By Cathy Healy, with Joan Walseth Purcell, Laine Bailey DeFreece, Joanne Culbertson Jeffres, and Joyce Taylor Spence

In the late 1960s, cattle prices were good, and a generation of early Wyoming settlers, the “old timers,” were dying. My father, Dan Healy, didn’t want their voices lost, so he established an oral history collection at the new Washakie Museum and Cultural Center.

Now, members of our class of 1960 are the “old-timers.” We remember telephone operators and party lines, yet we zoom like born techies. While we zoomed for 2 1/2 years waiting through COVID to hold our 60th reunion, we realized our memories of “regular childhoods” weren’t regular.

We were war babies, some of us raised by moms and grandparents, with PTSD dads who returned home. We lived in a boom time. By 1950, when

we were second-graders, Worland was the sixth largest city in Wyoming, population 4,202.

To us, Worland deserved the swagger -- we could even beat Casper in football, sometimes. We had two flights a day to Denver, and if you couldn’t stomach the “Vomit Comet,” you could ride the overnight train to Denver. Downtown, we had multiple choices of clothing stores, drug stores, filling stations, car dealerships, and one music store, which sold television sets.

FUN FACT: Worland is historically famous as the smallest cable television station in the United States when it started in 1953.

We five classmates are working with Curator Stevie Kowalczyk as we collect Class of ’60 memories—via zoom, of course. Videos and transcripts will be posted on the Museum’s web site.

Education Station

Education programs offered for all ages



Kurt Johnson
Museum Educator

The museum hosted a number of school groups for guided tours of the museum over the end of the summer and the beginning of the school year. On Friday, September 2, we hosted over 30 high school students from Fort Washakie High School with teacher John Gookin. We provided the students the chance to throw atlats at targets outside and then gave them an hour tour through the museum with extra attention paid to our collection of Indigenous artifacts. The trip was such a success that I made a trip out to the Fort Washakie school to meet with middle and high school science, social studies, and cultural educators to brainstorm ideas about how we can better engage with the students on the Wind River Reservation.

On September 22, we hosted the entire second-grade class of Hot Springs County for a tour through our two permanent exhibits accompanied by a drawing exercise that incorporated the 35-ft. tipi erected in our foyer from St. Stephen's Indian School. We introduced the second graders to the geology and paleontology of the Big Horn Basin and the settlement and development of Wyoming as a state, and gave them a presentation on Chief Washakie and the lives of the Indigenous peoples of Wyoming.

As part of our efforts to help local schools use our exhibits as learning tools, we invited area high school teachers to bring in high school students for a tour of our temporary exhibit, "No Rest: The Epidemic of Stolen Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2Spirits." We were happy to host the Ten Sleep high school students and their teacher, former museum educator Emma Reid, for a tour and discussion.

Our **STEAM Saturdays** continue to be well-attended. Over the past few months, we have had programs that covered the water cycle and soil health with Halli Caines; a Washakie Robotics Team kick-off with Steve Radabaugh and Curtis Hamer; and a course on the principles of "Leave No Trace" wilderness adventure skills with Stacey Whitman-Moore and Daleen Anderson of the BLM. At the end of October, Delina Wille and I will provide a presentation on how pH works, with the kids making their own "cabbage water," and then measuring bases and acids in it. After that, we are going to create our own "slime" for the kids to take home!

Our monthly **Speaker Series** continues to draw lots of community interest as well. In August, Stevie Kowalczyk presented an entertaining history of square dancing to accompany our Hometown Hootenanny event. In September, we spent a beautiful day outdoors at the TA Ranch in Buffalo, learning about the Johnson County War. Before we take a break for the holidays, Mark Hamilton will present on the history of the oil industry in the region on Thursday, November 17, at 6:00.

The goal of our Speaker Series is to offer the community the opportunity to learn about a diverse range of topics from experts in the field, with a primary focus on the history of the Big Horn Basin and wider Wyoming. As we continue to plan guests and topics for this series, we would like to hear your feedback about what has been successful so far, where we can improve, and what kinds of topics you would like to see addressed. Please contact me at kjohnson@washakiemuseum.org to share your comments and suggestions.



The October 29 STEAM class learned the principles of "Leave No Trace" from Stacey Whitman-Moore and Daleen Anderson of the BLM.

Some artifacts are larger than others!



*Stefanie Kowalczyk,
Curator*

What types of artifacts do you imagine the Washakie Museum has in its collection? You might think of natural history items like fossils, geologic samples, and geodes. Or you might think of Native American items like moccasins, beadwork, and projectile points. Maybe you think of early Worland and homesteader artifacts like title abstracts, housewares, and photographs. The museum has some of all of this, including everything from horse saddles to rocking chairs, from wicker baby carriages to cradleboards, and from lace fans to Valentine's Day cards. The collection tells the story of all facets of the Bighorn Basin and its history.

But telling the complete story of the Bighorn Basin means that not all our artifacts are "pretty" or "cool". In fact, sometimes they don't even fit inside the museum! One of these artifacts, due to arrive in the next few months, is the Cottonwood Creek Bridge. It's a 95-foot long, single-span

Warren pony truss bridge currently located just outside of Winchester. It is no longer safe for vehicular traffic and is going to be replaced. But the bridge can't just be discarded - it played a key role in the development of Worland and the Bighorn Basin and because of that is considered eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To understand why the Cottonwood Creek Bridge is so important, let's take a step back to the 1870s. In 1872 Yellowstone National Park was formed and the Grand Loop Road was finally completed in 1905. It was not a road for automobiles but for horse-drawn stagecoaches. As automobiles proliferated, Yellowstone National Park officially opened to vehicular traffic on August 1, 1915. This change democratized visitation to the park, as private transportation companies were replaced by personal vehicles which allowed a wider segment of the population to become tourists. To encourage tourism and development across Wyoming, the Yellowstone Highway was developed in 1915. The Yellowstone Highway was a vehicular route meant to bring tourists from Denver up through Cheyenne, Casper, Thermopolis, Worland, and Cody and into Yellowstone National Park.

The original highway route is today's County Road 86, and the section where the bridge is located was surveyed in 1919-1920 to run from Worland south to the Hot Springs County line. To ease tourist travel, state-of-the-art improvements were needed: gravel surfaces, culverts, and of course, a steel and concrete bridge. At the time, federal funds were being earmarked for highway maintenance to states with "key roads" as the beginnings of a national "interstate" road system. The Yellowstone Highway was designated one of these key roads early on. As a result, the bridge was constructed in 1925-26, with federal aid under Project 106A, and cost a whopping \$32,255.73.

The bridge was a reliable crossing over Cottonwood Creek and allowed not only tourists, but residents from across the Bighorn Basin, to travel more easily from Thermopolis to Worland. In 1952, a highway realignment was completed, which placed U.S. 20 north of Winchester, and left about two miles of the original Yellowstone Highway a county road. Fewer people began traveling through Winchester, and the Cottonwood Creek Bridge became just another bridge. Now that will soon be rehomed at the Washakie Museum, we can tell more people about its fascinating history, and more fully tell the story of the Bighorn Basin.



The Cottonwood Creek Bridge, shown in its current location in Winchester, will soon take up residence outside the Washakie Museum.

**It's
Back!**



Soup & Cookie Fair

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



Bottomless Bowl of Soup \$8

(served with a homemade roll,
a cookie, and a beverage)

Holiday Cookies \$8/lb.
(your choice!)



Join neighbors, friends, and family for a community lunch featuring homemade soups, homemade bread and a wide array of holiday cookies. Proceeds benefit the programs and exhibits of the Washakie Museum.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this event wonderful. We're looking for soup makers, cookie bakers, and servers! If you can help, please give us a call or email, **347-4102 or mbender@washakiemuseum.org**

Holiday Music

- 🎵 **Pianist Leslie Basse**
- 🎵 **Guitar and vocalist Bret Savage**
- 🎵 **The Sugar Beats**

**Free
Museum
Admission!**

**Holiday
Music!**

**Gift Shop
Sale!**

Hometown Hootenanny, August 6



Museum Curator Stevie Kowalczyk and Events Coordinator Chloe Stine, pose in borrowed western dresses to fit the theme.



Attendees of all ages enjoyed learning square dance techniques from square dance caller Stephen Lassiter.

**HOMETOWN
HOOTENANNY**



L to R: Worland locals Steve and Stella Hunt, Derek Sproveri and Marian Bender practice the square dance move, "Weaving the Ring."

Shakespeare in the Park, August 10



Over 100 people came out to Sanders Park to watch "Twelfth Night" performed by the Montana Shakespeare in the Park players, who celebrated 50 years of bringing free Shakespeare performances to rural and underserved communities.

Noelle Weimann Art Exhibit Opening, September 9



Artists Terrie Gergen and Noelle Weimann discuss art next to Noelle's paintings.

Kerry Grombacher Concert September 22



"Western Troubador" Kerry Grombacher entertained the audience with jokes, stories and songs.

Painting Workshop, October 1



Attendees at the painting workshop taught by Noelle Weimann show off their finished pieces..

Indigenous Peoples' Day, October 8



Above: Eagle Spirit Dancers invite attendees to join them in the Oklahoma Two Step dance.

Below: Families worked together to create Arapaho Flags at the children's craft tent.



Above: Champion fancy dancers George Abeyta and Dean Little Shield display colorful traditional regalia as they dance.

Historical treasures lie buried in local cemeteries

By Fran Scranton

Note: If you want to make a trip to a historical cemetery site, the app “Find a Grave” is a good place to start. Most cemeteries on the app have a directory in which you can search by name, and some even include an obituary as well as the names of other associated people who may be buried in the same area.

At the Riverside Cemetery in Worland, you can find the plot of the town founder, Charles F. Robertson, located at Block 26, Lot 10, Grave 8. There, you can also find the plot of Sam Shuichi Ujifusa, located at Block 8, Lot 3, Grave 6. He was a farmer on Washakie Ten and reportedly went to the Heart Mountain Internment Camp during World War II to request farm labor help during the war. More information on the Ujifusa family and their relationship with the internment camp can be found in “Japanese American Pioneers of the Bighorn Basin,” at www.heartmountain.org.

Also buried at the Riverside Cemetery is Tacetta B. Walker, located at Block 6, Lot 10, Grave 4. Walker is the author of *Stories of Early Days in Wyoming*, a book that provides information on the Jim Bridger Trail and the Bates Battlefield. She and her husband Lloyd were homesteaders on Bridger Creek in Hot Springs County, and they are buried together here in Worland.

At Mount View Cemetery west of Basin, Wyoming, the graves of Percy Wendell Metz and his wife, Cornelia, are covered by full-length bronze markers, making them stand out and difficult to miss. Percy Metz is most well-known as the Big Horn County Attorney at the time of the Spring Creek Raid, a dramatic episode in the settling of the West that is related in John W. Davis’s book, *A Vast Amount of Trouble*. When Metz took up prosecution of the Spring Creek Raid case, a politically charged triple murder, he was just 25 years old and had just over two years of experience as a practicing lawyer. Metz was successful and later became a Judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Wyoming. His hat is part of the museum’s permanent exhibit, “The Last West.”

The gravesite of Lylas Skovgard is also located in Basin. Skovgard is the author of *Basin City: The First County Seat in the Big Horn Basin*, which details the founding of Basin City and its estab-

lishment as the county seat of Big Horn County, Wyoming, in a readable historical style. Her work was so popular that a copy of it was placed in the time capsule for the new Centennial Complex at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. In fact, along with her personal epitaph, the cover of the book is engraved on her headstone.

A bit further afield are the Odessa Cemetery between Greybull and Shell, the Hyattville Cemetery, the Byron Cemetery north of Byron, the Riverside Cemetery in Cody, the Crown Hill Cemetery in Powell, and the Willow Grove Cemetery in Buffalo. Each of these cemeteries has something special to offer those who make the trip. In the Hyattville Cemetery, you will find *Banditti of the Plains* author Asa Mercer’s grave. The grave of Charles Lindsay, who wrote the first history of the Big Horn Basin in 1930, is in Byron. In the Crown Hill Cemetery, you can find the gravesite of Earl Durand, the notorious outlaw known as “The Tarzan of the Tetons.” Out in Buffalo, you can find the gravesites of Nate Champion, Nick Rae, and Orly “Ranger” Jones, known for their roles in the Johnson County War as well as that of the well-known law man Joe LeFors.

So, pack a good lunch, lots of water, and enjoy some hidden history in the great outdoors of the Big Horn Basin!



An imposing bronze marker covers the grave of noted lawmaker Percy Metz at the Mount View Cemetery west of Basin. Photo by Fran Scranton



Historian Charles Lindsay, buried in Byron, died in 1931 at the tender age of 36, after finishing the first history of the Big Horn Basin.

Washakie Museum Launches “BIG HORN BASIN TALENT SHOW”

Dust off those tap shoes. Practice that comedy routine. Polish up your accordion. The Washakie Museum wants to feature your amazing talent as part of our new **Big Horn Basin Talent Show!**

We know our members and the community love performing arts and we do too! But we think there’s lots of talent out there that hasn’t been publicly introduced. While our museum plays frequently feature the singing and acting talents of local performers, we want to give other talented individuals a chance to shine on stage.

We’ll be auditioning acts of all kinds on November 17 from 6-8 pm and November 19 from 10 am to 1 pm. Selected acts will perform in two live shows on March 24th and 25th, 2023. After each live show, audience members will vote for their favorite act. The act with the most votes will win \$500!

Get creative and show us how you can “wow” an audience in 2-6 minutes. Acts must be family-friendly. All ages are welcome to audition. The museum can provide limited tech for performances including lighting, sound, and a projected backdrop.

For more information, or to register to audition, please call Marian or Chloe at 347-4102. Online registration will be available soon.



BIG HORN BASIN TALENT SHOW

**THE WASHAKIE MUSEUM IS HOLDING
OPEN-CALL AUDITIONS FOR TALENT OF ALL KINDS!**

AUDITIONS: Saturday, November 17, 6-8 pm, & November 19, 10am-12pm

PERFORMANCES (for selected acts): March 23 and March 25, 2023

Details at washakiemuseum.org

Back in the Day... Memories of Prohibition

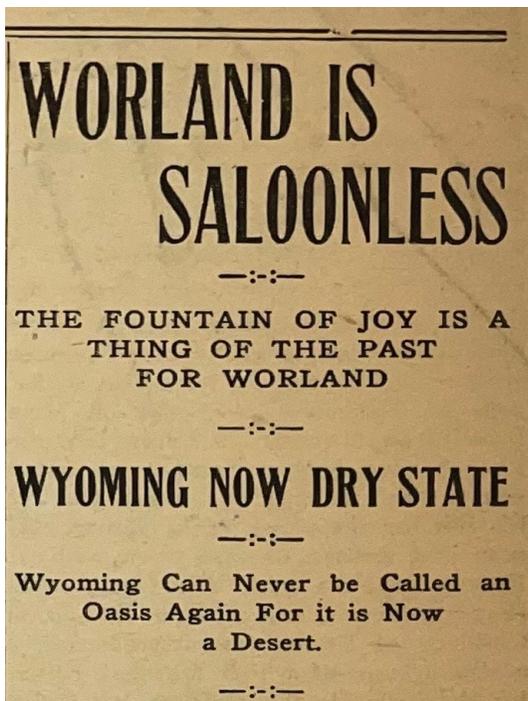
“Well, of course I was a small boy in the prohibition days. Prohibition wasn't very popular in Worland, Wyoming, and I don't think in these western states because everybody needed their little nip now and then. My Uncle Jason Gorst, who came here in 1910 and farmed with the rest of us, he was a single man and quite popular about town as it were and interested in civic and social affairs. Ol' Barney Koontz was Sheriff of Washakie County, and those who can remember Barney, he was a big rotund man, and he always had a nice smile on his face, and he had the biggest brown eyes you ever saw, and his eyes just twinkled. He had kind of a deep voice, you know, and very quiet. So, Jason was one of the deputy sheriffs and, of course, under the law they had to go and raid somebody every once in a while. All of your friends were making a little moonshine here and there, you know. And you kind of hated to go out and arrest somebody, and my Grandmother Gorst had a particular friend in Worland. Her name was Verona Andrews. Pierce Andrews' wife. Pierce Andrews, he was a real nice pompous gentleman, but he was poor. Well, they found poor old Pierce was making booze. My Uncle Jason had to go and help arrest him, and he didn't like that very well, and I'm sure Pierce didn't. Now this Verona Andrews was one

of my Grandmother Gorst's maid of honor at her wedding way back when, so it was bit tough. But according to Ray Pendergraft's book, and I didn't know this, Barney Koontz was always whistling. So, as he would go up the walk to arrest somebody, he broke into a whistling tune. Well, that gave 'em time to throw it down the toilet or wherever.

“But we lived up on the ranch south of Ten Sleep, and the booze runners from Canada to Casper or wherever they were going south came down through this country, and they used the Nowood Road up there to run their liquor over the Cottonwood Pass. The road wasn't through Wind River Canyon at the time. That's probably why they were going that way. We'd hear them running through there at night. They had big souped-up Cadillacs and Buicks and big cars and liquor all packed in there. As I was telling ya, the story is that they usually spent the night or a rest period up at the Red Bank Ranch that belonged to George Bear McClellan, which was then run by his son-in-law, Henry Tully. Henry Tully was known for his ability to imbibe, and he was quite a joker, so he decided one time that he was going to hijack a load of that booze. At least have himself a cache. So, he loaded it in a camp wagon with four head of horses and started up over the hills toward the mountain. He never quite got over the ridge and the guys caught him and slapped him on the wrist. I guess they didn't do anything to him. Got the booze back. Henry said if he had gotten over the ridge, he would have had enough booze to last him quite a while.”

Richard Gorst, interviewed 1989

“I had a Model T Ford with a Warford transmission in it. One ton truck. And I remember the cushion had worn out and we got a Dodge cushion in there, and it was a little wider than the Ford cushion, and when you were going downhill, you'd slide a little ahead and you'd kick that Warford out of gear, and if you think you're going downhill (laughs). We went into Chatham one time, we had 3300 pounds of sugar for Frank Willey, he was bootlegging, and he lived just about a mile the other side of Chatham towards Thermopolis, off down in under the hill where he had the still. And my brother was driving, and we slid a little on that seat going



The Worland Grit featured a long, sad story about the advent of Prohibition on July 4, 1919

Back in the Day... Memories of Prohibition (continued)

downhill and kicked it out of gear. The bridge was out, and you had to go down in that creek and out and you talk about a ride, and my little brother was sitting up there driving, the little devil, and said, 'Drive it kid, drive it.' And he was just as white as a sheet, and he just sat there and drove that thing. No brakes, you know, and no way to stop it. But he took that thing down in there and halfway out before he got it headed off, but nothing happened. It was the luckiest thing I've ever seen. There was no way you could stop. That was about the wildest ride I ever took."

Harold Van Buskirk, interviewed 1976

"[During Prohibition] there was a guy around here, Sheeley. They got gas here in town, and they had that pipe all stacked up here near where Walwrath's place is. They had that pipe all in rows and rows. Must have been a half a dozen or more rows. We lived there where Doc Bunnell lives now. My brother and I walked down there one day...and there was a gallon of whiskey in a gunny sack. We took it down to Dad and Barney Koontz. Barney Koontz gave us 90 cents for that. Going home, there was that Sheeley looking for that bottle. Most of the guys who found that, they would have got some bottles and put it in bottles and sold it. They would get \$5 or \$6 for a pint of liquor. I wasn't quite old enough to know what to do with it. I was sorry afterwards."

Leonard Bonine, interviewed 1989

From the front page of the *Worland Grit*, July 4, 1919

"Promptly at 12 o'clock both saloons in Worland closed. There were no moments of grace allowed. Promptly on the strong of twelve every erstwhile saloon was emptied and every door closed. There was a yelling, surging mob on the streets and a good many who had a trifle more than three sheets in the wind, but comparatively well behaved.

...“Old Jawn” died a sudden death last Monday at midnight—hundreds followed “the old boy” to his grave (with thirsty throats), and the bereaved ones walked the streets---not weeping, but in hilarity—knowing that they had indulged in their last acquaintance with Friend John. The streets were well filled with lovers of the cup that cheers as well as inebriates, long after midnight, and many did not hie themselves to their beds until after the sun was creeping over the eastern horizon the following morning. It was a night that will be remembered in Worland.”

11th Annual

MAMMOTH QUICK DRAW

A fundraiser for the Washakie Museum and the Worland Rotary

FRIDAY, NOV. 4 | 5:30-10:00 PM

BIGHORN SPONSORS: ANB Bank, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services/Hake Realty, Bostrom Enterprises, King's Carpet One, McGarvin & Taylor Real Estate, The Pony Express, McKinnon Flooring/Stellar Roofing, Richard Realty, State Farm/Ken Westphal

VIP SPONSORS: Norco, Range, Washakie Cinemas

MAMMOTH SPONSORS: Allied Investment Advisors, Admiral/Teton/Fremont Beverage, Bailey Enterprises, Banner Health, Big Horn Anchor Service, Big Horn Basin Tire, Black Hills Bentonite, CarQuest, Cloud Peak Veterinary Services, Crown Cork & Seal, Edward Jones/Alan Brown, Mike & Tiffany Greear, Jadeco, Legacy Financial Partners/Ameriprise Financial/John & Margaret Shaw, Lincoln Financial Advisors, Richard & Liisa McKamey, Nelson & Page Dental, Olsen Orthodontics, Serlkay, Stogie Joe's, Sunlight Federal Credit Union, Veile Mortuary, Virile Electric, Worland Pharmacy, Wyoming Gas Company, Wyoming Sugar Company



Join us for art and music!

29 Artists!

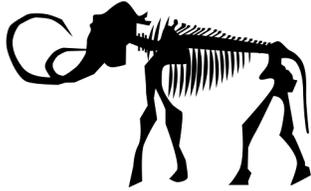
Music from Breck Buer
& Shane Foote

Dinner & Drinks

Tickets: \$70 each ◆ Table for Ten: \$750

washakiemuseum.org or call 347-4102

Buy today! Tickets selling fast!



WASHAKIE MUSEUM

& CULTURAL CENTER

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washakiemuseum.org
(307) 347-4102

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NEW EXHIBIT COMING SOON

HOWDY! From Big, Wonderful Wyoming!

On Display January - March 2023

Ring in the New Year, then take a step back in time with

“Howdy! From Big, Wonderful Wyoming!”

This temporary exhibit examines the postcard as an advertiser of Wyoming’s natural and cultural landscape and looks at how it has been used to promote Wyoming as a vacation dreamland and a wonderland of the West.

If you have any old Wyoming postcards you could loan or donate to the museum, we would love to add them to the exhibit! Bring them to the museum anytime before January.

